

Reference Materials

casfaa.org/hsrc

**[www.csac.ca.gov/
doc.asp?id=1438](http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=1438)**



Federal Updates & The FAFSA



ECMC



FSA ID Replaces FSA PIN!



What this means:

- **Improved** security
- User-selected username & password
- Eliminates need to supply SSN and date of birth for **login**
- Each FSA ID must have a unique email address!

Where to use an FSA ID:

- FAFSA on the Web
- My Federal Student Aid (studentaid.gov/login)
- NSLDS
- StudentLoans.gov
- TEACH Grant website

School Selection - School View

Starting 2016-2017

- Colleges will not see other schools listed on students' FAFSA results (SAR)
- Only state agencies will see **ALL** colleges listed on FAFSA

The screenshot shows the 'School Selection' tab in the FAFSA application. The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with tabs: Student Demographics, School Selection (active), Dependency Status, Parent Demographics, Financial Information, Sign & Submit, and Confirmation. A vertical 'STUDENT' label is on the left. A green message box states: 'Search successfully completed. Check the Search Results table for schools meeting your search criteria.' Below this, instructions state: 'You can add up to 10 colleges to your FAFSA. If you know your college's school code, use the option to the right to search. If you need help finding your college, use the state (required), city (optional), and school name (optional) fields to begin your search.' The search form contains: State (California), City (optional), School Name (northridge), and Federal School Code. There are 'SEARCH' buttons and a 'Search Tips' link. Below the search form, instructions say: 'Select a school from the Search Results table and click Add >> to add a school to the Selected Schools table.' The 'Search Results: 1' section shows a table with one entry: CALIF STATE UNIV-NORTHRIDGE, NORTHridge, CA, Federal School Code: 001153. There is an 'ADD >>' button next to it. The 'Selected Schools' section shows 'Select up to 10 schools' and 'No schools selected'. There is a 'VIEW SELECTED SCHOOL INFORMATION' button. At the bottom, there are 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT' buttons. The footer contains links: NEED HELP?, SAVE, CLEAR ALL DATA, VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY, and EXIT.

STUDENT

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics Financial Information Sign & Submit Confirmation

School Selection

☒ Search successfully completed. Check the Search Results table for schools meeting your search criteria.

You can add up to 10 colleges to your FAFSA. If you know your college's school code, use the option to the right to search. If you need help finding your college, use the state (required), city (optional), and school name (optional) fields to begin your search.

State Federal School Code

City (optional) OR

School Name (optional)

[Search Tips](#)

Select a school from the Search Results table and click **Add >>** to add a school to the Selected Schools table.

Search Results: 1

Sort By: **Best Match** | [School Name](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> CALIF STATE UNIV-NORTHRIDGE NORTHridge, CA Federal School Code: 001153 i	<input type="button" value="ADD >>"/>
---	---

Selected Schools

Select up to 10 schools

No schools selected

[NEED HELP?](#) [SAVE](#) [CLEAR ALL DATA](#) [VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY](#)

FAFSA.com Domain Name Transfer

Through a negotiated settlement agreement, *Student Financial Aid Services (SFAS)* will transfer **FAFSA.com** to the U.S. Department of Education

You have accessed **www.FAFSA.com**

Student Financial Aid Services, Inc. is in the process of transferring this web domain to the U.S. Department of Education.

<p>U.S. Department of Education</p> <p>Please click the link below if you would like to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which needs to be completed to apply for federal student aid (grant, work-study and loans)</p> <p>Please visit www.StudentAid.gov if you would like to learn more about federal student aid and the FAFSA form.</p> <p>Dept of ED</p>	<p>Student Financial Aid Services, Inc.</p> <p>If you are an existing client of Student Financial Aid Services and would like to access your account, please click the SFAS button below.</p> <p>If you would like to file a FAFSA, please visit www.FAFSA.gov.</p> <p>SFAS</p>
---	---

The website and text herein do not constitute an endorsement of a non-government product or service.

FAFSA Application Cycle and PPY

Starting 2017-2018

- FAFSA available October 1st (2016)
- FAFSA will use “prior-prior-year” (PPY) income data
 - 2017-2018 FAFSA will use 2015 tax year information



When a Student Is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income Information Is Required
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)



ECMC



FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)

Start here for:

- Initial FAFSA
- Corrections
- Signatures / FSA ID
- Continuing a saved FAFSA
- Renewal FAFSA

www.fafsa.gov

The screenshot shows the FAFSA on the Web (FOTW) homepage. At the top, it features the 'Federal Student Aid' logo, the text 'An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION', and the 'FAFSA' logo with 'Free Application for Federal Student Aid'. A navigation bar includes links for Home, About Us, FSA ID, StudentAid.gov, and Help, along with a search bar and language options (English, Español). The main heading is 'Get help paying for college' with the subtext 'Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)'. Below this is a banner image of diverse students. The page is divided into two main sections: 'New to the FAFSA?' with a 'Start A New FAFSA' button, and 'Returning User?' with a list of actions (Make a correction, Add a school, View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...) and a 'Login' button. The left sidebar contains links for 'CPS Web Applications Demo System', 'Deadlines' (Information about your deadlines), 'School Code Search' (Find your college's school code), and 'FAFSA Filing Options' (Learn about the other options for filing your FAFSA). The right sidebar features 'Announcements' (including FSA ID questions and a 2014-2015 deadline notice) and 'Thinking About College?' (promoting FAFSA4caster and video resources). A footer section includes a site update notice (Wednesday, July 1, 2015), a maintenance notice (unavailable every Sunday from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. Eastern Time), and links for FOIA, Privacy, Security, Notices, WhiteHouse.gov, USA.gov, and ED.gov. Copyright information for 2010 FAFSA.gov is also present.

FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)

Using FOTW

- Ask Questions
- Browse Help
- View Deadlines & Announcements

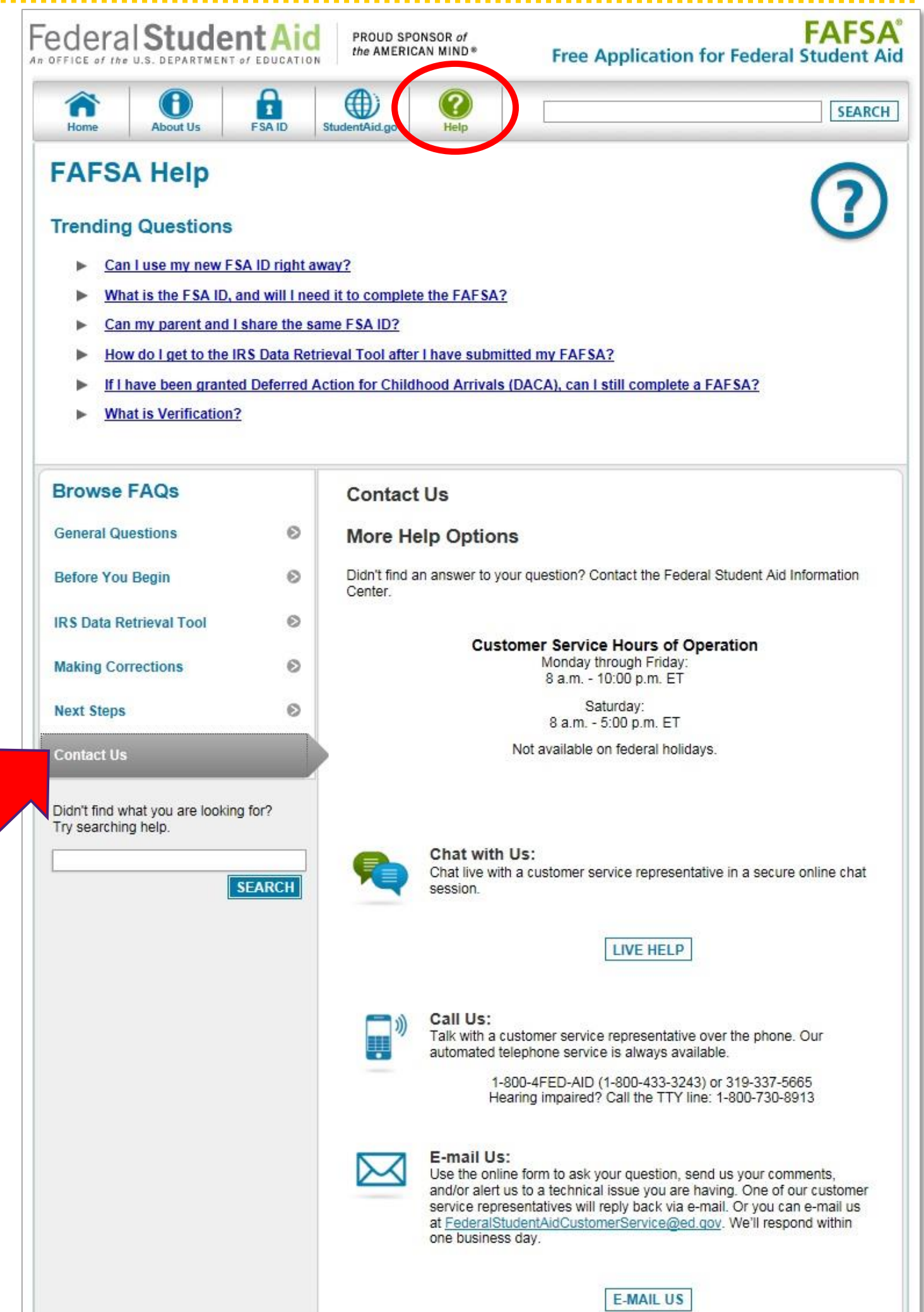
www.fafsa.gov



FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)

Contact Us

- Live Help (Chat)
(Mon-Fri 5am-7pm)
- (800) 433-3243
(1-800 4FedAid)
- FederalStudentAidCustomerService@ed.gov



FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)

Help

- Trending Questions
- FAQs
- Search

The screenshot shows the FAFSA Help page. At the top, the header includes 'Federal Student Aid' with the U.S. Department of Education logo, 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®', and 'FAFSA® Free Application for Federal Student Aid'. Below the header is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, FSA ID, StudentAid.gov, and Help. A search bar with a 'SEARCH' button is located to the right of the navigation bar. A red arrow points to the search bar. Below the navigation bar, the 'FAFSA Help' section is displayed. It features a 'Trending Questions' section with a list of questions, each preceded by a right-pointing arrow. A red arrow points to the 'Trending Questions' section. Below this, there are two columns: 'Browse FAQs' and 'General Questions'. The 'Browse FAQs' column has a 'General Questions' button highlighted with a grey arrow, and two other links: 'Before You Begin' and 'IRS Data Retrieval Tool'. The 'General Questions' column contains a description of general information and a list of three questions, each preceded by a right-pointing arrow.

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

FAFSA®
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Home About Us FSA ID StudentAid.gov Help

SEARCH

FAFSA Help

Trending Questions

- ▶ [Can I use my new FSA ID right away?](#)
- ▶ [What is the FSA ID, and will I need it to complete the FAFSA?](#)
- ▶ [Can my parent and I share the same FSA ID?](#)
- ▶ [How do I get to the IRS Data Retrieval Tool after I have submitted my FAFSA?](#)
- ▶ [If I have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\), can I still complete a FAFSA?](#)
- ▶ [What is Verification?](#)

Browse FAQs

General Questions

Before You Begin

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

General Questions

General information about federal student aid, your eligibility for aid, the financial aid package, and more.

- ▶ [What is the FAFSA?](#)
- ▶ [Am I eligible to receive financial aid?](#)
- ▶ [What types of aid are available?](#)

FOTW help at StudentAid.gov

Federal Student Aid

An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

Search StudentAid.gov

Prepare for College


Types of Aid

Who Gets Aid

FAFSA: Applying for Aid

How to Repay Your Loans

[Home](#) » [FAFSA: Applying for Aid](#) » Filling Out the FAFSA




You know you have to fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), but maybe you're not sure what to do.
Let's review what to expect.

Filling out the FAFSA® can be a straightforward and easy process. The online FAFSA at fafsa.gov will guide you through the application; click on the "Start A New FAFSA" button on the home page, and just follow the directions on the screen. Here are some tips to help you along the way.

- Getting an FSA ID
- Gathering the Documents Needed to Apply
- Getting Help
- Starting Your FAFSA® and Providing Your Basic Personal Information
- Listing Colleges and/or Career Schools
- Determining Your Dependency Status
- Reporting Parents' Information
- Providing Financial Information (Before or After Filing Taxes)
 - Determining When Tax Information Will Be Available Via the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT)
- Signing and Submitting the FAFSA
- Taking the Next Steps

Getting an FSA ID

You'll need an FSA ID, a username and password combination that allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. Your FSA ID also can be used to sign loan contracts and to access certain information online. You can get your FSA ID as you fill out the FAFSA, but you also have the option to get it ahead of time. Find out [how to get an FSA ID](#) and [what to do if you forgot your FSA ID](#).




Getting an FSA ID before you begin the FAFSA could prevent processing delays, and it only takes a few minutes to apply.


Quick Links

- [Estimate Your Aid](#)
- [Dependency Status](#)
- [Reporting Parent Information](#)
- [Next Steps](#)
- [Types of Aid](#)
- [Leave Us Feedback](#)


Resources



2015-16 Completing the FAFSA
[VIEW FILE](#)



FAFSA on the Web Worksheet 2015-16
[VIEW FILE](#)



The FAFSA Process graphic
[VIEW FILE](#)

[Download Adobe Reader](#)

Glossary

[FAFSA](#)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FOTW Overview: 7-Step Process



ECMC



Step 1: About the Student



ECMC



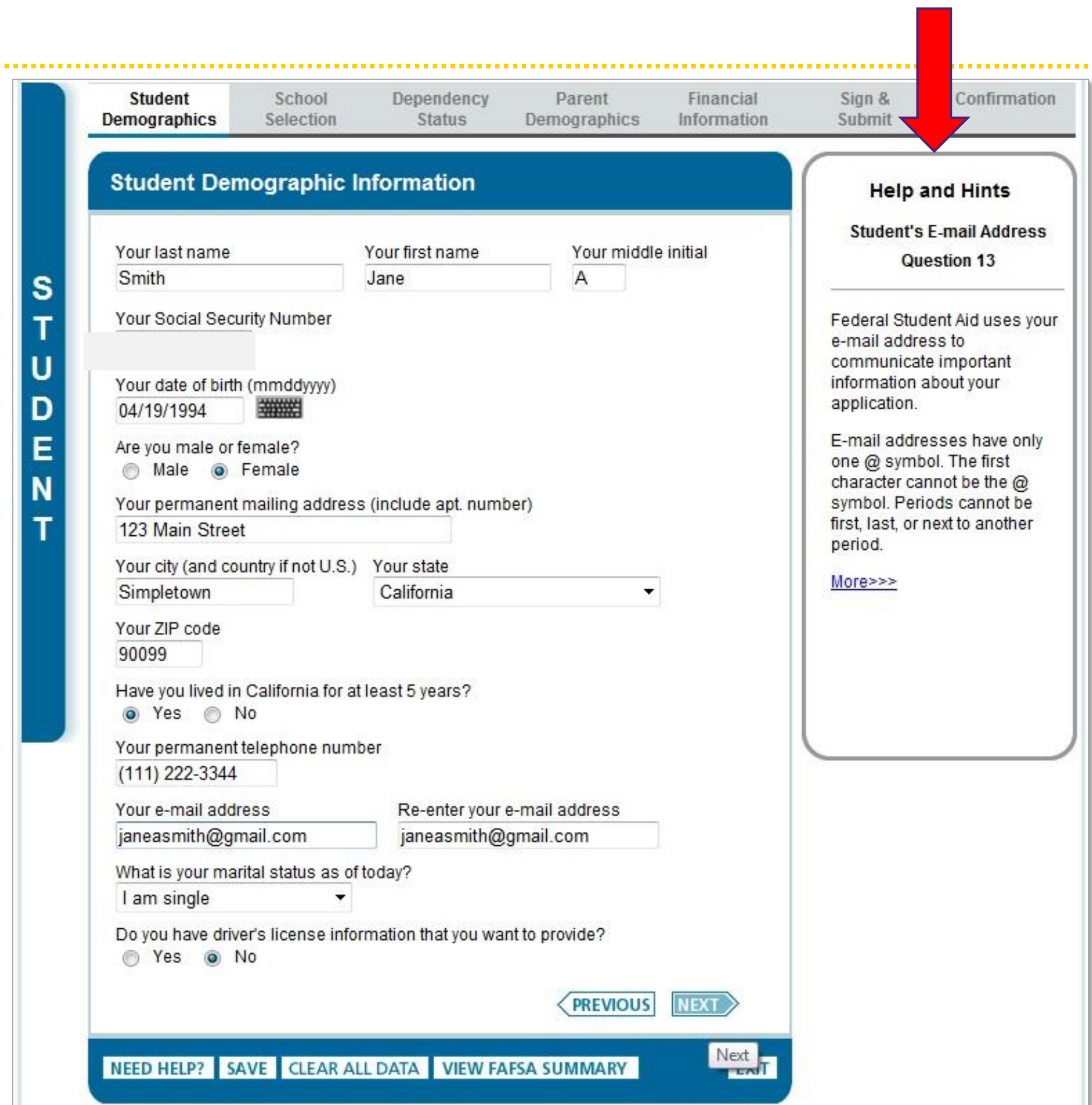
Student Demographics

Check for:

- Name matches student Social Security card
 - Watch out – Naturalized Citizens
- Transposed numbers
- Incorrect data in numeric fields

Tip: Use the **Help and Hints** section on each page

Simple mistakes can delay processing FAFSA and determining eligibility for financial aid



The screenshot shows the FAFSA Student Demographic Information page. A red arrow points to the 'Help and Hints' section on the right. The page includes a navigation bar with tabs: Student Demographics, School Selection, Dependency Status, Parent Demographics, Financial Information, Sign & Submit, and Confirmation. The 'Student Demographics' tab is active. The main form area is titled 'Student Demographic Information' and contains the following fields:

- Your last name: Smith
- Your first name: Jane
- Your middle initial: A
- Your Social Security Number: [Redacted]
- Your date of birth (mmddyyyy): 04/19/1994
- Are you male or female? ☐ Male ☒ Female
- Your permanent mailing address (include apt. number): 123 Main Street
- Your city (and country if not U.S.): Simpletown
- Your state: California
- Your ZIP code: 90099
- Have you lived in California for at least 5 years? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Your permanent telephone number: (111) 222-3344
- Your e-mail address: janeasmith@gmail.com
- Re-enter your e-mail address: janeasmith@gmail.com
- What is your marital status as of today? I am single
- Do you have driver's license information that you want to provide? ☐ Yes ☒ No

At the bottom of the form are buttons for 'PREVIOUS', 'NEXT', 'NEED HELP?', 'SAVE', 'CLEAR ALL DATA', 'VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY', and a 'Next' button with an 'EXIT' link.

Help and Hints
Student's E-mail Address
Question 13

Federal Student Aid uses your e-mail address to communicate important information about your application.

E-mail addresses have only one @ symbol. The first character cannot be the @ symbol. Periods cannot be first, last, or next to another period.

[More>>>](#)

Student Eligibility

Important

Important Items:

- Citizenship status
- High school graduation status
- Grade level
- New question regarding **foster youth** status

Student Eligibility

Are you a U.S. citizen?

Are you registered with the Selective Service System?
☒ Yes ☐ No

When you begin college in the 2015-2016 school year, what will be your high school completion status?

When you begin the 2015-2016 school year, what will be your grade level?

When you begin the 2015-2016 school year, what degree or certificate will you be working on?

Are you interested in being considered for work-study?

Will you have your first bachelor's degree before July 1, 2015?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?

Highest school completed by Parent 1

Highest school completed by Parent 2

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

[NEED HELP?](#) [SAVE](#) [CLEAR ALL DATA](#) [VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY](#) [EXIT](#)

Student Eligibility

Students with a high school diploma must:

- Identify their high school
- Select **Confirm** to find a match
- **Select** the school from the list *or* select **Next** to continue if the school is not showing on the list

The screenshot shows a web application for Student Eligibility. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Student Demographics, School Selection, Dependency Status, Parent Demographics, Financial Information, Sign & Submit, and Confirmation. The 'Student Demographics' tab is active. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'Student Eligibility continued'. It contains three text input fields: 'What is the name of your high school?' (with 'burbank' entered), 'In what city is your high school located?' (with 'burbank' entered), and 'In what state is your high school located?' (with 'California' selected from a dropdown menu). A blue 'CONFIRM' button is positioned below the state dropdown. To the right of the main form is a 'Help and Hints' sidebar. It includes the title 'Student's High School Name, City, and State' and 'Question 27'. The text in the sidebar reads: 'Enter the name, city, and state of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma. Enter as much information as possible to receive the most relevant search results. For the high school name and city, you may enter the full name or commonly accepted abbreviations or aliases. For example, you can enter'. At the bottom of the main form, there are buttons for 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT'. At the very bottom of the page, there is a footer bar with buttons: 'NEED HELP?', 'SAVE', 'CLEAR ALL DATA', 'VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY', and 'EXIT'. A vertical blue bar on the left side of the form contains the word 'STUDENT' written vertically.

Step 2: School Selection



ECMC



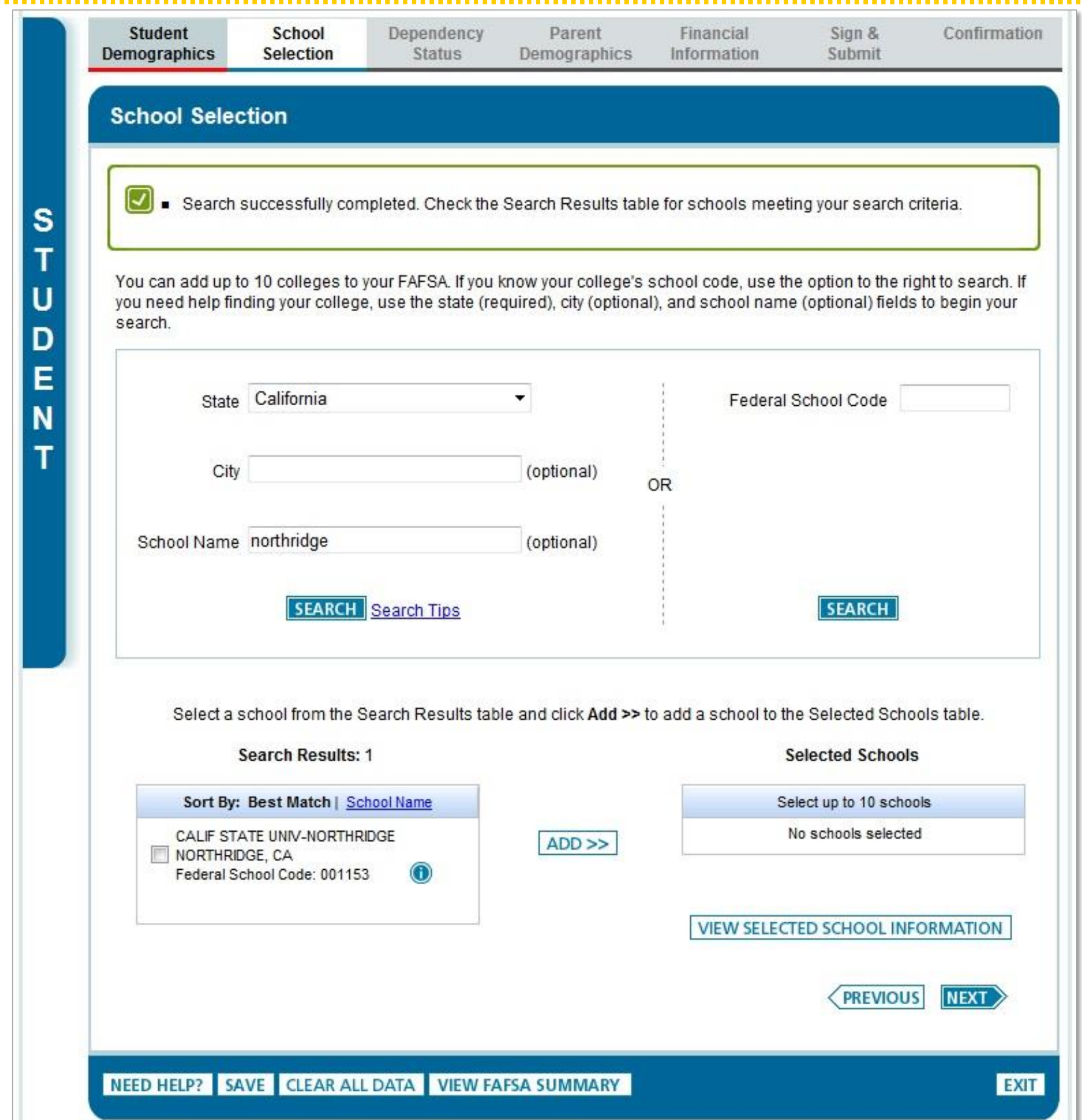
School (college) Selection

Add a school

- Federal School Code
- Search by:
 - State
 - City
 - Name of college

Housing plans

- On campus
- With parent
- Off campus



The screenshot shows the FAFSA School Selection page. At the top, there are tabs for Student Demographics, School Selection (active), Dependency Status, Parent Demographics, Financial Information, Sign & Submit, and Confirmation. A vertical 'STUDENT' label is on the left. A green box at the top of the main content area contains a checkmark and the message: 'Search successfully completed. Check the Search Results table for schools meeting your search criteria.' Below this, a paragraph explains that up to 10 colleges can be added to the FAFSA and provides instructions on how to search using a school code, state, city, or school name. The search form includes fields for State (California), Federal School Code, City (optional), and School Name (northridge, optional). There are 'SEARCH' buttons and a 'Search Tips' link. Below the search form, instructions state: 'Select a school from the Search Results table and click Add >> to add a school to the Selected Schools table.' The 'Search Results: 1' section shows a table with one entry: 'CALIF STATE UNIV-NORTHRIDGE' with a checkbox, 'NORTHRIDGE, CA', and 'Federal School Code: 001153'. An 'ADD >>' button is next to the entry. The 'Selected Schools' section shows a box with 'Select up to 10 schools' and 'No schools selected'. A 'VIEW SELECTED SCHOOL INFORMATION' button is below. At the bottom, there are 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT' buttons. The footer contains links for 'NEED HELP?', 'SAVE', 'CLEAR ALL DATA', 'VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY', and an 'EXIT' button.

STUDENT

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics Financial Information Sign & Submit Confirmation

School Selection

☒ Search successfully completed. Check the Search Results table for schools meeting your search criteria.

You can add up to 10 colleges to your FAFSA. If you know your college's school code, use the option to the right to search. If you need help finding your college, use the state (required), city (optional), and school name (optional) fields to begin your search.

State Federal School Code

City (optional) OR

School Name (optional)

[Search Tips](#)

Select a school from the Search Results table and click **Add >>** to add a school to the Selected Schools table.

Search Results: 1

Sort By: **Best Match** | [School Name](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	CALIF STATE UNIV-NORTHRIDGE	<input type="button" value="ADD >>"/>
	NORTHRIDGE, CA	
	Federal School Code: 001153	i

Selected Schools

Select up to 10 schools

No schools selected

[VIEW SELECTED SCHOOL INFORMATION](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

[NEED HELP?](#) [SAVE](#) [CLEAR ALL DATA](#) [VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY](#) [EXIT](#)

Step 3:

Determining Student Dependency Status




Dependency Determination

NO to all questions:

- makes the student “dependent”
- Must submit parent information

Note: Child must be supported financially — *more than 50%*



The screenshot shows the 'Dependency Determination' section of the FAFSA form. At the top, a green box with a checkmark icon and the text 'Application was successfully saved.' is visible. Below this, several questions are listed, each with 'Yes' and 'No' radio button options. A red arrow points to the 'No' option for the question: 'Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2016?'. The 'No' option is selected. Other questions include: 'Were you born before January 1, 1992?', 'As of today, are you married?', 'At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?', 'Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016?', 'Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?', 'Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?', 'At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?', 'As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?', 'As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?', and 'On or after July 1, 2014, were you homeless or were you self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?'. At the bottom of the form, there are navigation buttons: 'PREVIOUS', 'NEXT', 'NEED HELP?', 'SAVE', 'CLEAR ALL DATA', 'VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY', and 'EXIT'.

Dependency Determination

☒ Application was successfully saved.

Were you born before January 1, 1992?
☐ Yes ☒ No

As of today, are you married?
☐ Yes ☒ No

At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2016?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
☐ Yes ☒ No

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
☐ Yes ☒ No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
☐ Yes ☒ No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?
☐ Yes ☒ No

On or after July 1, 2014, were you homeless or were you self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
☐ Yes ☒ No

PREVIOUS NEXT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

Foster Youth

Select **YES** if at any time since the student turned age **13**, he/she was in foster care even if no longer in foster care today due to:

- Adoption
- Reunification
- Reached the age of majority (18 yrs.)

Note: Documentation may be required

Emancipated Minors

Select **YES** if the student:

- as of today, is an emancipated minor, or
- was an emancipated minor immediately before turning 18 years old

Note: Documentation (issued from a court in the student's state of legal residence) may be required

Legal Guardianship

YES, if...	NO, if...
Student can provide a copy of a court's decision that as of today he or she is in a legal guardianship.	Student is still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect.
Student can provide a copy of a court's decision that he or she was in a legal guardianship immediately before he or she reached the age of being an adult in his or her state.	The court decision was not in effect at the time the student became an adult.
The court was located in the state of legal residence for the student at the time the court's decision was issued.	The guardianship was established by an attorney but not ordered by a court.

Homeless, Unaccompanied Youth

Select **YES** if **any time** after July 1, 2015, the student meets **ALL three criteria**

“Homeless” or “at risk of being homeless”

- Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. Includes living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because the student has nowhere else to go, **AND**

“Unaccompanied”

- Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, **AND**

“Youth”

- Under 21 years of age

Resource for homeless students: **NAEHCY.org**

Homeless, Unaccompanied Youth

Students are considered to be **independent** if they are determined to be **Homeless Unaccompanied Youth** by:

- The student's high school or school district homeless liaison, **or**
- The director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funding by HUD, **or**
- The director of an a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program, **or**
- The college's financial aid administrator determines they meet the requirements for consideration


What if...

Dependency Status Results

Based on your answers to the dependency status questions, you are considered a **dependent student**. This means you must provide parental information. Select "I will provide parental information" and click **Next** to continue to Parent Demographics.

If you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information, under very limited circumstances, you may be able to submit your FAFSA without parental information. Select "I am unable to provide parental information" and click **Next** to get additional information.

☐ I will provide parental information
☒ I am unable to provide parental information



[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

[NEED HELP?](#) [SAVE](#) [CLEAR ALL DATA](#) [VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY](#) [EXIT](#)

Help and Hints

Dependency Status Results

For dependent students, a special circumstance is a situation that exists between the student applicant and his or her parent(s) which prevents the student from providing parental information.

Select **I will provide parental information** to continue to Parent Demographics.

Select **I am unable to provide parental information** to get additional information about special circumstances.

...then...

- Colleges have the authority to “override” federal dependency status
- Process will vary college to college

Note: Student **MUST** follow up with college

Special Circumstances

Important: You told us that you think you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information. Before we allow you to proceed and skip the parental section of your FAFSA we must advise you of the following:

Under Federal law to the extent your family is able, they are primarily responsible for paying for your college expenses. To determine how much your family can afford to pay towards your college expenses, we must collect your financial information and your parents' financial information.

However, Federal law allows for some exceptions, if you have a **special circumstance**. The following are **examples** of some special circumstances where you may submit your FAFSA without providing parental information:

- Your parents are incarcerated; or
- You have left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

But not all situations are considered a special circumstance. The following are situations that would **not** be considered a special circumstance:

- Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
- You do not live with your parents.

Now that you have reviewed the information above, select one of the following options and click **Next** to continue.

- ☐ I will provide parental information
- ☒ I have a special circumstance and I am unable to provide parental information
- ☐ I do not have a special circumstance but I am unable to provide parental information

PREVIOUS

NEXT

Step 4:

Parental Information for Dependent Students

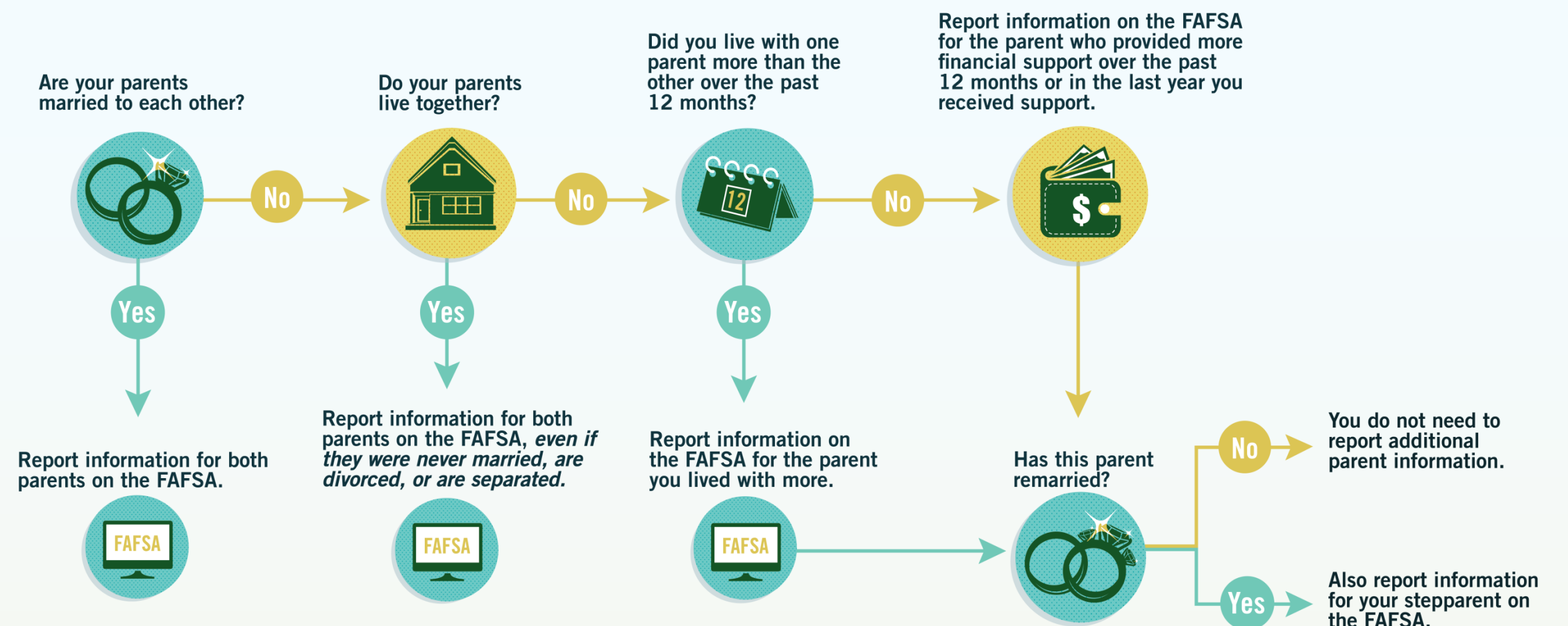


Whose info goes on a FAFSA?

WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).¹ For reporting purposes, "**PARENT**" means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).



The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:



Widowed Stepparent



Grandparents



Foster Parents



Legal Guardians



Older Brothers or Sisters



Aunts or Uncles

If you're not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

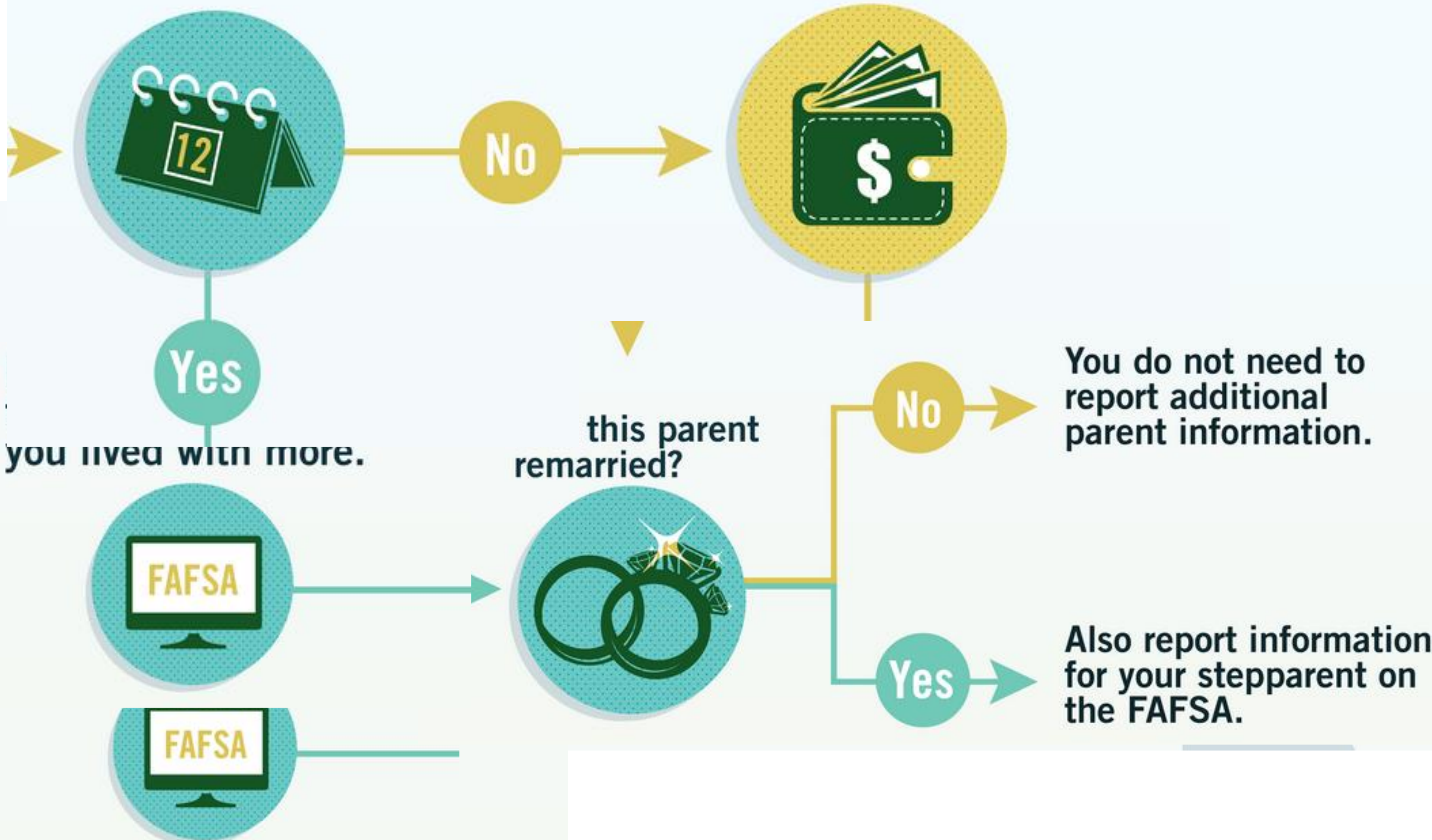
¹ If you're not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/fafsa/filling-out/dependency

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

Did you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?

Report information on the FAFSA for the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months or in the last year you received support.



The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:



**Widowed
Stepparent**



Aunts or Uncles



Foster Parents



Grandparents

Aunts or Uncles



**Older Brothers
or Sisters**



**Older Brothers
or Sisters**



Legal Guardians

Responses on the FAFSA

Never Married

Unmarried and both parents living together

Married or Remarried

Divorced or Separated

Widowed

Divorced or Separated Parents

- Provide information for the parent(s) with whom the student lived with most during the 12 months prior to filing the FAFSA
- If the student spent equal time with both parents, use the information for the parent who provided the greatest amount of financial support for the student in the prior 12 months
- If both parents are still living together, use information for both parents on FAFSA

Remarried Parent

Provide information about the custodial parent *and stepparent* regardless of:

- Agreement of “nonsupport”
- Prenuptial agreement
- Divorce decree designating tax filing exemptions

Note: A parent claiming the student on his or her tax return need not be the parent required to provide data on the FAFSA

Note: Children of parent and stepparent should be included on the FAFSA (if they provided and will continue to provide more than half of their support for the coming academic year)

NO Parental Information



Do not provide parent information for

- **Foster parent(s)**
 - Student is automatically considered an independent student
- **Grandparents, other relatives, or guardian(s)**
 - Colleges may use professional judgment to allow the student to file as an independent student
 - **Exception:** Adoptive parents

Parent Information

- Demographics
- Marital status will determine what questions are asked of the parent(s)

Parent Demographics Information

☒ Application was successfully saved.

As of today, what is the marital status of your legal [parents](#) (biological and/or adoptive)?

Married or Remarried

When did your parents get married or remarried? Enter the month and year. (mmyyyy)

08/1990

What is your father's/stepfather's Social Security Number?	What is your father's/stepfather's last name?
	Smith
What is your father's/stepfather's first initial?	What is your father's/stepfather's date of birth? (mmddyyyy)
J	01/01/1970
What is your mother's/stepmother's Social Security Number?	What is your mother's/stepmother's last name?
	McConnell
What is your mother's/stepmother's first initial?	What is your mother's/stepmother's date of birth? (mmddyyyy)
K	04/18/1972
Your parents' e-mail address	
@emailworld.com	
Re-enter your parents' e-mail address	
@emailworld.com	
Have your parents lived in California for at least 5 years?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

Parent Information

- **Household Size:**
Parent provides more than 50% financial support
- **Number in College:**
Students enrolled at least half-time

Your parents' number of family members in 2015-2016 (household size)
If you are not sure who is considered a family member, click **Household Size** to answer the questions on the worksheet.

04 **HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

How many people in your parents' household will be college students between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016? Do not include your parents.

1

PREVIOUS **NEXT**

NEED HELP? **SAVE** **CLEAR ALL DATA** **VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY** **EXIT**

Parent Income Information

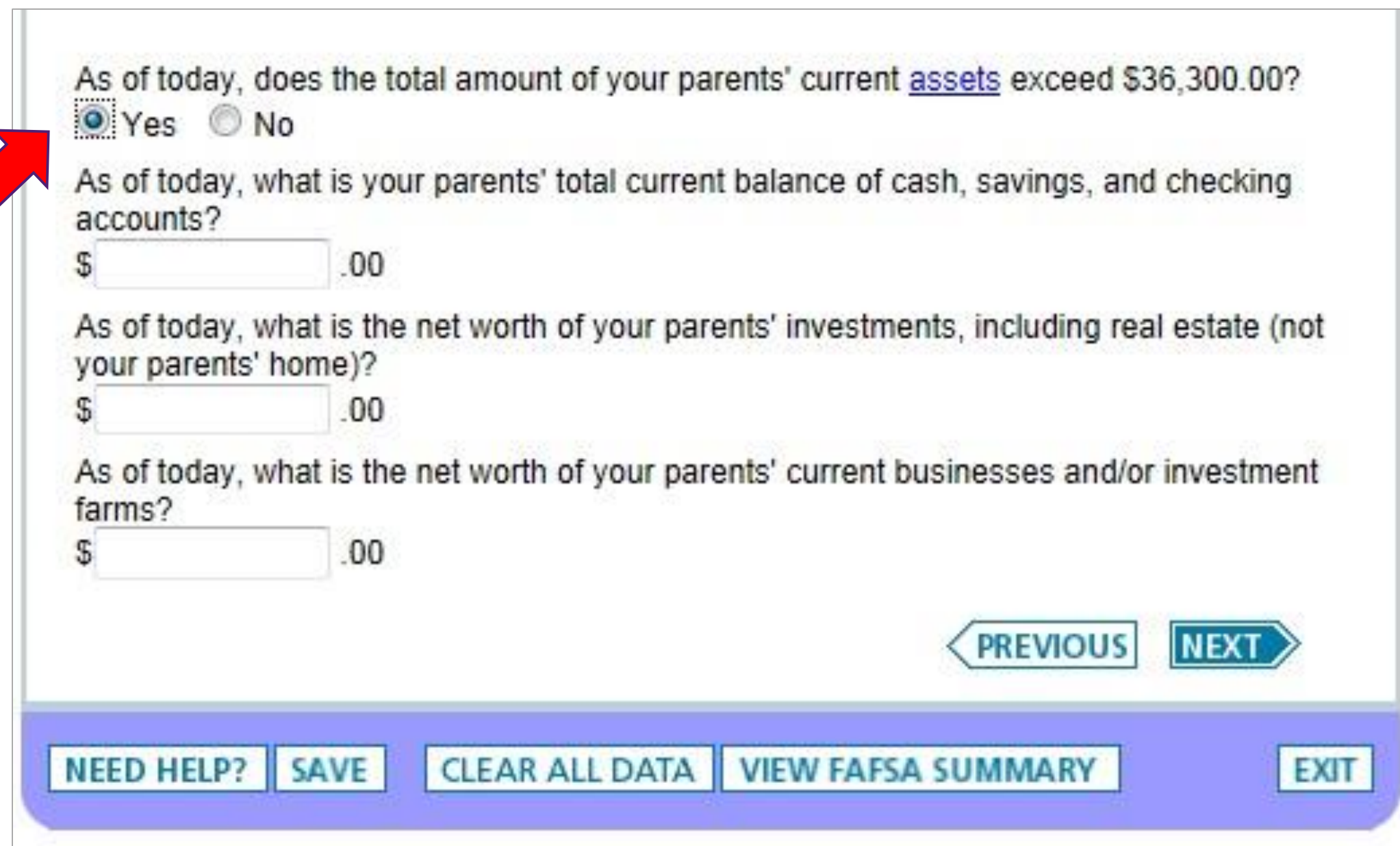
IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

- Transfers information directly from the IRS
 - Requires **FSA ID**
 - Available first Sunday in February
 - Available after filing 2015 federal tax return
 - **3+** weeks after electronic filing
 - **11+** weeks after paper filing

The screenshot displays the 'Parent Tax Information' form. At the top, a green box indicates 'Application was successfully saved.' Below this, there are two dropdown menus: 'For 2014, have your parents completed their IRS income tax return or another tax return?' set to 'Already completed', and 'For 2014, what is your parents' tax filing status according to their tax return?' set to 'Married-Filed Joint Return'. A green icon with a grid pattern is followed by the text: 'You, the parents, may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to view and transfer your tax information from the IRS.' Below this, there are three questions with radio button options: 'Did you, the parents, file a Form 1040X amended tax return?' (Yes/No), 'Did you, the parents, file a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return?' (Yes/No), and 'Did you, the parents, file taxes electronically in the last 3 weeks (or by mail in the last 11 weeks)?' (Yes/No). A text box explains: 'Based on your response, we recommend that you, the parents, transfer your information from the IRS into this FAFSA. [How you filed your taxes](#) can affect whether your tax return information is available to transfer.' Below this, it says 'Enter your FSA ID and click **Link To IRS**.' There is a dropdown menu for 'Which parent are you?' set to 'Select'. Below that is a text field for 'What is your (the parent's) FSA ID?'. At the bottom, there are two text fields: 'FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address' and 'FSA ID Password'. To the right of these fields are links: 'Create an FSA ID', 'Forgot Username', and 'Forgot Password'. A blue button labeled 'LINK TO IRS' is positioned to the right of the password field. At the bottom of the form, there are navigation buttons: 'PREVIOUS', 'NEXT', 'NEED HELP?', 'SAVE', 'CLEAR ALL DATA', 'VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY', and 'EXIT'.

Parent Asset Information

Note: Asset filtering question



As of today, does the total amount of your parents' current [assets](#) exceed \$36,300.00?

☒ Yes ☐ No

As of today, what is your parents' total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts?

\$.00

As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' investments, including real estate (not your parents' home)?

\$.00

As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' current businesses and/or investment farms?

\$.00

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

[NEED HELP?](#) [SAVE](#) [CLEAR ALL DATA](#) [VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY](#) [EXIT](#)

Step 5:

Student Income and Assets



Student Income & Assets

- Same questions as asked of parents
- If student will not file a tax return, they may still be asked:
 - Amount earned from work
 - Asset information



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Student Tax Information". The main question is "For 2015 have you completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return?". Below this is a dropdown menu with the selected option "Not going to file". To the right of the dropdown are two buttons: "PREVIOUS" and "NEXT". At the bottom of the form is a blue bar containing five buttons: "NEED HELP?", "SAVE", "CLEAR ALL DATA", "VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY", and "EXIT".

Step 6: Signatures and Certification



Sign and Submit (Student)



Select signature method

- **FSA ID** or printed signature page

Terms of Agreement

- \$\$\$ to be used for *education-related expenses* only
- Student is not in default on a federal student loan
- Student does not owe a refund of a federal Title IV grant
- Can receive Federal Pell Grant from only one college for the same period of time
- Agree to provide tax information and other requested documents

Sign & Submit

☒ Application was successfully saved.

[VIEW OR PRINT YOUR FAFSA INFORMATION](#)

Are you a [preparer](#)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Student Signature

Student's Social Security Number

Student's last name

Student's date of birth

READ BEFORE PROCEEDING

By signing this application electronically using your Federal Student Aid PIN, username and password, and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you:

1. will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,
2. are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
3. do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
4. will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and
5. will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same

I, the student, agree to the terms outlined above.

☐ Agree ☒ Disagree

What is your (the student's) FSA ID?

Do not enter the FSA ID if you are not the student.

FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address

FSA ID Password

[Other options to sign and submit](#)

[SIGN](#)

Parent Signature

Don't have an FSA ID? [Create an FSA ID](#). It takes only a few minutes.

Sign and Submit (Parent)



Select signature method

- **FSA ID** or printed signature page

Terms of Agreement

- Provide documents to verify accuracy of information (if requested)
- IRS verification

Parent Signature

Are you signing as the student's Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent), or Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent)?

☒ Parent 1 (Father/Mother/Stepparent) ☐ Parent 2 (Father/Mother/Stepparent)

Information about Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent):

Parent 1 (father's/mother's/stepparent's) Social Security Number

Parent 1 (father's/mother's/stepparent's) last name

Parent 1 (father's/mother's/stepparent's) date of birth

READ BEFORE PROCEEDING

By signing this application electronically using your Federal Student Aid PIN, username and password, and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked:

1. to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form
2. to provide U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on your application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.

I, the parent, agree to the terms outlined above.

☐ Agree ☒ Disagree

What is your (the parent's) FSA ID?

Do not enter the FSA ID if you are not the parent.

FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address

FSA ID Password

[Create an FSA ID](#)
[Forgot Username](#)
[Forgot Password](#)

[Other options to sign and submit](#)

Step 7: Confirmation



ECMC




Confirmation Page


- Confirmation number
- Data Release Number (DRN)
- Optional feature: transfer FAFSA data
- Eligibility information
- College information
- Next steps

2011-2012 Confirmation Page

Confirmation Number: F 04422458705 10/03/2011 16:09:26
Data Release Number (DRN): 9999

Congratulations, Jane! Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid. You should print this page for your records.

 **Optional Feature - Transfer your parents' information into another FAFSA** - Do your parents need to complete a FAFSA for your brother or sister? Click [here](#) and all the information your parents provided in this application will be transferred to a new FAFSA. Your parents will have to provide a signature again, but that's all.

 **Eligibility Information**


Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = 99999
The EFC is an index that schools use to determine your eligibility and is not the amount of money that you have to pay. Your school's financial aid office will use your EFC to determine the specific types and amounts of student aid you are eligible to receive.

You may be eligible to receive the following:

[Pell Grant](#) Estimate - \$1,600.00


[Direct Stafford Loan](#) Estimate - \$5,500.00

You may also be eligible to receive other federal, state, or institutional grants, scholarships, and/or work-study.

 **College Rates**

The table shows the [graduation, retention, and transfer rates](#) for the schools you selected. Go to the College Navigator Web site at www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator for complete information.

School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate
PALOMAR COLLEGE	24%	69%	13%

 **Next Steps**

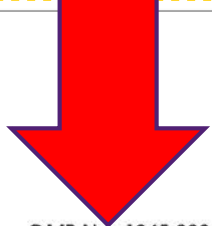
The colleges you listed will have access to your FAFSA information once your application is processed. For more information about student aid go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/aidinfo. Return to *FAFSA on the Web* at any time to check the status of your application, or to make corrections or changes.

Student Aid Report (SAR) and Acknowledgement

- Sent electronically or by mail
- Summarizes FAFSA information
- Displays **EFC** and **DRN**
(upper right-hand area on the SAR)

EFC - Expected Family Contribution
Used to determine eligibility for federal aid

DRN - Data Release Number
Used to send SAR to additional schools



Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN KID
OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STUDENT AID REPORT
2016-2017

WWW.FAFSA.GOV

APRIL 22, 2016
000001C001
JOHN SMITH
742 EVERGREEN TERRACE
SPRINGFIELD OH 55555

OMB No. 1845-0001
DATA RELEASE NUMBER (DRN): 9755
EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC): 000000*0

Dear JOHN SMITH,

Your Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the information you submitted on your 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Status (review the checked boxes)

☒ Your FAFSA appears to be complete. Review the data on pages 3-10 of your SAR and make corrections or updates if necessary. The school(s) listed on your FAFSA will receive your information.

☒ Your FAFSA has been selected for verification. Verification is a process where your school confirms the data you reported on your FAFSA. Your school has the authority to contact you for documentation that supports income and other information that you reported on your FAFSA.

Federal Student Aid Eligibility (review the checked boxes)

The data submitted on your FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is 000000.

The EFC is not the amount of money that your family must provide. Rather, you should think of the EFC as an index that colleges use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. Financial aid may include grants (free funds that do not have to be repaid), work-study (paid part-time employment), and/or low-interest loans (borrowed funds that must be repaid). Please note that your EFC is subject to change if you update or correct your FAFSA.

Your financial aid package could also include other federal, state, or institutional grants and scholarships, and/or a work-study award. Your school's financial aid office will advise you of the specific types and amounts of student aid you are eligible to receive. For more information about the EFC, grants, loans, work-study, scholarships and other sources of aid, go to StudentAid.gov.

☒ Based on your EFC it appears that you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$5775, provided you have not met or exceeded the lifetime limit established for the Federal Pell Grant program. You may also be eligible for other grants, work-study opportunities, and low-interest student loans.

☒ We sent your information to other federal agencies to verify your eligibility for federal student aid and there appears to be an issue with the information provided on your application. Review the checklist on page 3 for instructions on how to resolve these issues.

You should keep this SAR for your records!

R5EN000001 999 PAGE 1 OF 10 01234567891SM01

Student Aid Report (SAR) and Acknowledgement

- Electronically sent within **3-5 days** if FAFSA was submitted online with a valid email address
- Electronically sent within **2 weeks** if a paper FAFSA was submitted with a valid email address
 - Filers (with a valid email address) get an email from ***Federal Student Aid*** with subject “*FAFSA Results...*”
- Sent by U.S. Postal mail within **3 weeks** if the FAFSA (online or paper) was submitted without a valid email address

FAFSA Demonstration Website

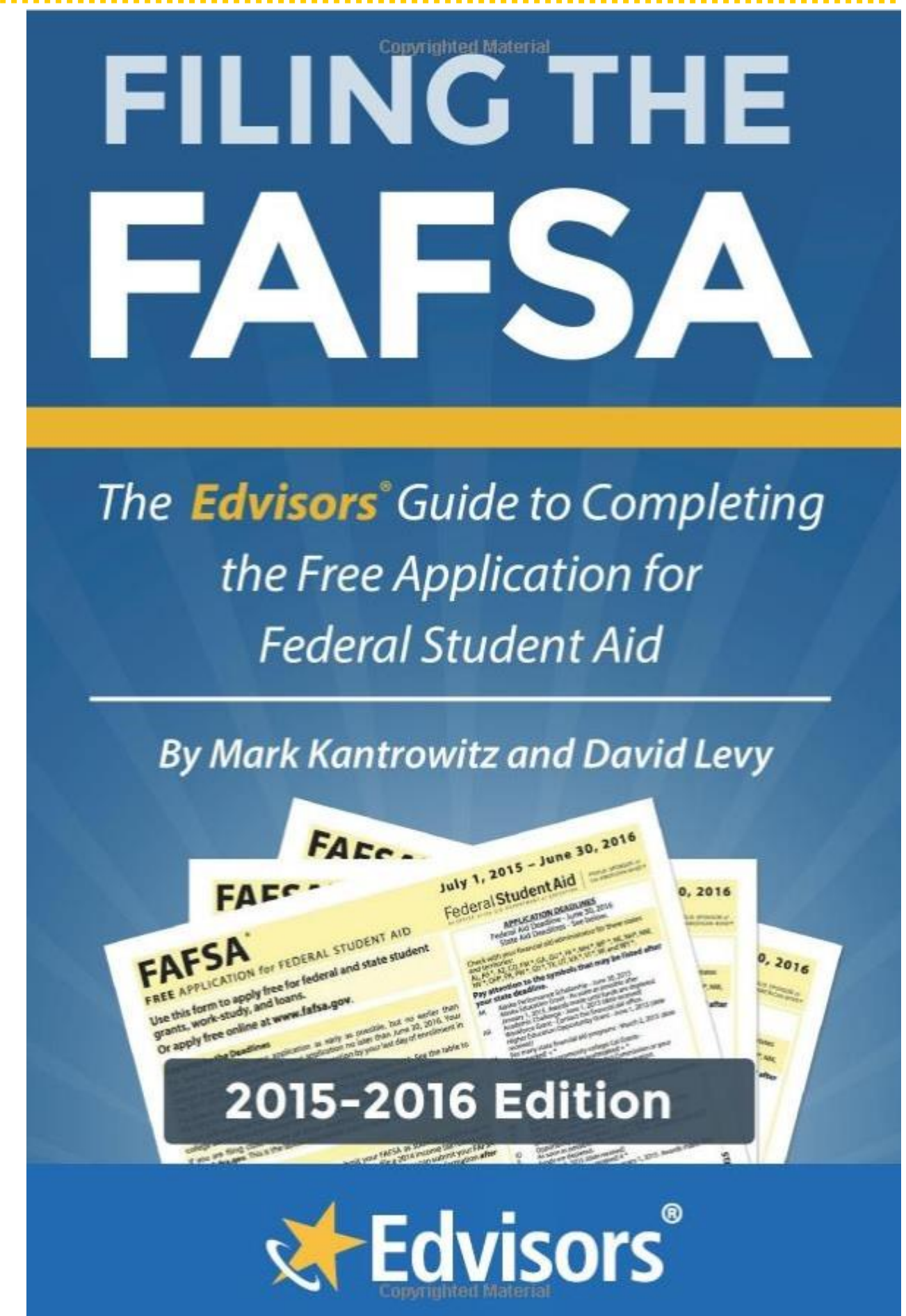
fafsademo.test.ed.gov

- **Username:** eddemo
- **Password:** fafsatest
- 2016-2017 test system available **December 30th**



Free Book about Filing the FAFSA

- 250-page book about completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Maximize eligibility for student aid
- Avoid common errors
- Complete the form quickly, easily and accurately
- **FREE** PDF version download at:
edvisors.com/fafsa-book



Questions?



ECMC

